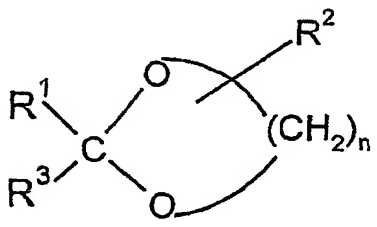
We claim:

1. The use of compounds of the formula (I)



(I)

in which

R^1 represents an alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl radical which has 2 to 30 carbon atoms and which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, where, if appropriate, one or more suitable nonadjacent carbon chain members can be replaced by oxygen atoms,

R^2 represents hydrogen, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NR^4R^5$, $-N^+(R^4R^5R^6)$, $-PR^7R^8$, $-O-P(R^7R^8)$, $-P(O)R^7R^8$, $-P^+(R^7R^8R^9)$ or a C_{1-5}-alkyl radical which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, $-NH_2$, mono- or di-C_{1-4}-alkylamino or a 5- to 7-membered heterocycle having up to three hetero atoms selected from among O, N and S,

R^3 represents hydrogen or can have the meanings stated above for R^1,

R^4, R^5 and R^6 independently of one another represent hydrogen or C_{1-5}-alkyl or two of the radicals together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded from a 5- to 7-membered heterocycle which can optionally additionally comprise one or two further heteroatoms selected from among O, N and S,

R^7, R^8 and R^9 independently of one another represent C_{1-5}-alkyl, C_{1-5}-alkoxy or C_{6-12}-aryl

or

two of the radicals together with the phosphorus atom to which they are bonded form a 5-7-membered heterocycle which can optionally additionally comprise one or two further heteroatoms selected from among O, N and S,

n denotes 2, 3 or 4,

for the preparation of pharmaceuticals with improved permeation of a pharmaceutically active substance across cell and organ barriers.